

Tooele
Summer 2003

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**U.S. Army
Chemical Materials Agency
(Provisional)**

TOCDF begins VX destruction

Following approval by state regulators, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility began destroying the most lethal chemical agent in the U.S. Army's inventory – nerve agent VX. The disposal campaign, which began March 28, will eliminate the VX currently stored in ton containers and in various types of munitions.

In March 2002, TOCDF finished safely destroying the nation's largest supply of nerve agent GB, known as Sarin. This accomplishment means that 77 percent of the nation's GB stockpile is eliminated, which includes the GB agent previously destroyed on Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean.

Unlike GB which vaporizes quickly, VX evaporates very slowly and presents challenges that required



Deseret Chemical Depot workers prepare VX M55 Rockets for delivery.

Photo by Chuck Sprague, DCD

modifications to TOCDF's monitoring equipment. VX is contained in some of the same munition types used for GB agent, including ton containers, 155mm projectiles and M55 and M56 rockets and warheads. Like GB munitions, VX munitions will be processed in the facility's liquid incinerator and metal parts furnace. VX also is packed in spray tanks and

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Army creates new agency, names director



Michael Parker, acting director,
Chemical Materials Agency
(Provisional).

The U.S. Army has announced the creation of a provisional agency designed to enhance the safe storage and elimination of the nation's aging chemical weapons.

The new organization, the Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional), combines the

demilitarization and storage functions under a single director. Formerly, these functions were operated separately under the Chemical Demilitarization Program and the Soldier Biological and Chemical Command.

Michael Parker, formerly both the deputy director for SBCCOM and the program manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, was appointed to the position of acting director, CMA on February 19. "The CMA brings all the parties under one roof necessary to carry out the mission of the safe storage and elimination of obsolete and aging chemical weapons in the U.S." Parker said. "This consolidation will achieve greater effectiveness

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Workers train for safety at TOCDF

With safety charting the course and Coye Cole at the helm, the EG&G Defense Materials' worker training program challenges all employees to do their very best. Targeted toward all government and contractor personnel who both directly and indirectly support Deseret Chemical Depot's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, this training is the first step in an employee's job journey.

"Every job position has a training path," Cole, EG&G's training manager, explained. The required courses for each path are determined according to a job task analysis, the TOCDF Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, and Army Regulation 50-6, which governs the chemical surety program.

Whether it's initial training for a new hire or annual refresher training, each employee dedicates many hours to a multitude of courses ranging from First Aid and CPR to the handling of hazardous materials, protection from falls, or working in confined spaces. More in-depth training paths are required for workers whose jobs entail direct involvement with the plant's operations or chemical surety.

For example, the training path for a newly hired control room operator is very intense. As such, more than four months of a new employee's time is dedicated to the required training of 601 hours plus certification before he or she can work without direct supervision.



Photo by Mark Mesesan, EG&G

Workers participate in a Hazmat exercise as part of the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility training program.

Training involves more than classroom attendance. Employees are tested and there is no grading curve. All workers must pass each course's final exam with a 75 percent or better on OSHA/RCRA-required courses, and at least a 70 or better on all other required courses. If an employee fails a course, the instructor retrain and retests the individual.

Although the average class can accommodate up to 12 employees, instructors teach to the demands of the work force.

"We try to utilize our instructors the best way possible, but we will hold a class for just one employee if necessary," Cole said.

Tracking employees, available instructors, required courses and dates for refresher work is a monumental task made easier with the Training

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Photo by Chuck Sprague, DCD

The first shipment of VX M55 Rockets is loaded into an Onsite Container for transport to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

M23 land mines. The spray tanks will be handled in the metal parts furnace after the agent is drained, using a process similar to that used on the GB ton containers. The M23s are more difficult to drain and will require a different system for disassembly.

"The lessons learned at the Johnston Island facility, which safely destroyed more than 420 tons of VX, have been applied to our processes at TOCDF," said Dale Ormond, site project manager. "We are confident that the VX stockpile will be eliminated safely and effectively." The Army expects to complete the VX disposal campaign next spring. Then, workers will prepare to destroy the depot's remaining stockpile, mustard agent. For additional information, call or stop by the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office.

Workers train for safety at TOCDF

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Records Management System. This user-friendly system, developed by a previous EG&G Training Department employee, can be accessed by approximately 50 plant employees on a “read-only” basis. Only three people are able to change the employees’ training data in the system.

One of the three is April Smith. As training coordinator, Smith is at the hub of this computer-driven system, managing the entire data base.

“She makes this whole program function smoothly,” Cole said.

The training program not only helps TOCDF’s skilled work force perform their jobs safely, the courses have also helped the local community.

“Several times, workers have learned CPR or First Aid here and have saved the life of someone in a store or someone injured in an auto accident,” Smith said.

Cole and Smith also extract “lessons learned” from the experiences of workers at the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, where chemical weapons stockpile destruction has been completed.

“We have revamped some of our training programs as a result of JACADS operations,” Cole said, adding that changes to much of the training material on handling of VX chemical agent were a result of lessons learned.

“We have extensive experience in this training program and will be able to pass our experiences on to other disposal sites either as successes or as lessons to learn.”

Cole said he considers the training service a necessary one for all workers, so they know how to safely perform their jobs.

“I feel more comfortable working inside this plant than I do driving to and from work,” he said, adding that it is now up to the workers to apply all that they have been taught to their daily activities.

The emphasis on safety continues to be the focus of all operations at TOCDF, and employee training and testing are part of that commitment. Site Project Manager Dale Ormond, EG&G’s General Manager Steve Frankiewicz and DCD Commander Col. Peter Cooper are dedicated to working together to maintain safety as the top priority.

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*—Coye Cole,
training manager,
EG&G Defense
Materials, Inc.*

Tooele ORO welcomes new outreach specialist

Melynda Petrie has joined the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office as an outreach specialist.

A resident of Tooele, Petrie serves as a link between community stakeholder groups and the elimination of chemical weapons program. She also plans, implements and oversees presentations, fairs, conventions and public meetings in addition to monitoring the media.

“It’s so rewarding to return to my career field and it’s an added bonus to work with such a professional outreach office team,” Petrie said. “I look forward to meeting Tooele and Wasatch Front residents, and supporting the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility’s safe chemical weapons disposal program.”

Petrie holds a bachelor’s degree in English and Art from Marymount College, Tarrytown, N.Y. She also has completed electronic journalism, public affairs officer and editor courses at the Department of Defense Information School. Petrie brings more than 18 years of public relations experience to the Tooele outreach team, including previous assignments as the editor of the APG News at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., from 1987 to 1991 and public affairs officer for Dugway



Photo by Amy Leetham, Outreach Office

Outreach Specialist Melynda Petrie explains the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility incineration process to Derek VonHatten, a Tooele Junior High School eighth-grader.

Proving Ground from 1991 to 1995. She and her husband, David, have three grown children and five grandchildren.

The outreach office, located at 54 S. Main St., is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Come by and visit, pick up information about the elimination of chemical weapons program and say hello to the newest member of the outreach team.

EG&G names general manager

Photo by Mark Mesesan, EG&G



Stephen L. Frankiewicz,
general manager for EG&G
Defense Materiel, Inc.

Stephen L. Frankiewicz has been named the general manager for EG&G Defense Materiel, Inc., at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

With seven years of experience in the nuclear waste management industry and project management experience in technology-oriented research and development programs, the former

Army colonel also brings 22 years of active duty military experience. Frankiewicz holds a master's degree in physics and nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"I look forward to keeping our world class work force focused and challenged, while exceeding the expectations of our customer, the Army, as we work safely and diligently to compete our mission," Frankiewicz said.

Army creates new disposal agency, names director

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and better meet the needs of the program for the future." The agency is expected to become an official Army entity by October 2003.

Parker reiterated that safety remains the Army's number one priority in destroying the weapons at the eight different stockpile sites. The cornerstone of the destruction program has been and remains the safety of the public, the workers, and the environment.

In 2002, the Army accomplished much in its chemical weapons destruction effort, including the destruction of GB (Sarin)

nerve agent at Utah's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility; construction of a destruction facility at Pine Buff, Ark.; completion of testing efforts at facilities in Anniston, Ala. and Umatilla, Ore.; selection of destruction technologies at Pueblo, Colo., and Richmond, Ky.; and acceleration of the neutralization programs at Aberdeen, Md., and Newport, Ind.

To date, the Army has eliminated 8,082 tons of chemical agents; more than 25 percent of the national stockpile.